

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Of pending claims 1-102, claims 61-74 and claims 88-99 were withdrawn from consideration due to a restriction requirement. Of the remaining claims, claims 1, 6, 7, 12-17, 27, 30, 31, 36-40, 43-45, 48-50, 53, 75-78, 83-87 and 100-102 were rejected. Claims 2-5, 8-11, 18-26, 28, 29, 32-35, 41, 42, 46, 47, 51, 52, 54-60 and 79-82 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. The claims have been amended as noted above and new claims added. Reexamination and reconsideration of the claims are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 6, 7, 12-17, 27, 30, 31, 36-40, 43-45, 48-50, 53, 75-78, 83-87 and 100-102 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Moll et al. (US Patent 6,659,939).

Independent claims 1, 17, 30, 43, 53, 75 have been amended to include an objected to claim. Such amendments are described in the following table, the incorporated objected to claims highlighted in bold for easier review. In turn, the incorporated claims were then canceled.

Claim number	Now incorporates original claim no.
1	2
17	18
30	31, 32
43	45, 46
53	54
75	77, 79

Therefore, Applicants believe that these independent claims are allowable along with the claims which depend therefrom. Claims 100-102 have been canceled. These amendments and cancellations to the claims have been made in an effort to expedite prosecution, do not reflect agreement or acquiescence to the Examiner's rejection of anticipation by Moll et al. and have been made without prejudice for filing the original claims in a later application.

Claims 1, 6, 7, 12-16, 30, 31, 36-40, 43-45, 48-50, 75, 76, 83-85 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Vierra et al. (US Patent 6,149,583).

Independent claims 1, 17, 30, 43, 53, 75 have been amended to include an objected to claim and the incorporated claims have been canceled as stated above. Therefore, Applicants believe these claims are allowable along with the claims which depend therefrom. The amendments and cancellations to the claims have been made in an effort to expedite prosecution, do not reflect agreement or acquiescence to the Examiner's rejection of anticipation by Vierra et al. and have been made without prejudice for filing the original claims in a later application. For example, Applicants do not find a description in Vierra et al. of a tension cable as described in claim 17 of the instant application.

THE ADDED CLAIMS

New claims 103-150 have been added. The new claims are objected to claims rewritten in independent form and claims depending therefrom. Such relationships are described in the following table, the incorporated objected to claims highlighted in bold for easier review.

Claim number	Original claim no.
103	1, 6, 8
117	17, 23
130	17, 27, 28
131	17, 27, 29
132	43, 39, 41
143	50, 51

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

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Reply to Office Action of 2/12/2004

PATENT

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,


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